

South Boston Dorchester Avenue Improvement Study
Task Force Meeting
Meeting Summary
Thursday, July 18, 2006

Location: 88 Black Falcon Avenue, South Boston

Attendees: Brad Washburn, BRA
Karen Hong, BRA
Ralph DeNisco, BTB
Keri Pyke, Louis Berger Group
Don Kindsvatter, Von Grossmann and Company
Carol Houghtaling, Aide to Representative Wallace
Linda Zablocki
Denise Lynch
Beth Bernier
Tamara Holloway
Pattie McCormick
Jennifer Jackson, Aide to Senator Hart

The meeting of the South Boston Dorchester Avenue Improvement Study's Task Force was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of VeriClaim, at 88 Black Falcon Ave, by Brad Washburn, Planner with the BRA.

Brad Washburn began the meeting by greeting the Task Force and thanking them for attending. After a round of introductions, a presentation was made by Keri Pyke, the project manager from the Louis Berger Group, and Don Kindsvatter, Principal Urban Designer from Von Grossmann & Company. They briefly described related previous projects and experience in the South Boston area, as well as their project approach and identified some issues and important intersections to think about. During this meeting, they also pinpointed some issues that might be important for the upcoming Joint Task Force Meeting regarding Corridor-wide Design guidelines, and asked for input from the Task Force regarding those issues.

Questions were raised about existing and proposed trees and how they may affect street lighting. The Task Force members were concerned that visibility may be an issue, as overgrown trees may cause blind corners and prevent street lighting from serving its purpose. There were also concerns that overgrown trees and plants may encourage crime. Members of the Task Force also felt that lighting doorways and entryways would increase the perception of safety and deter crime. In addition, the Task Force also asked for pedestrian counts to be made when the traffic study is performed so that improvements made in the future can be geared towards a safer pedestrian environment.

The Task Force members then distributed and reviewed a revised draft of the South Boston - Dorchester Avenue Task Force Project Mission Statement. Brad said that he would review their draft and continue to work towards a final mission statement.

Brad then went on to discuss the Business Survey. A cover letter and sample questionnaire form was distributed to the Task Force, and Brad explained that there will be a two-part survey that will take place in approximately one month, where BRA planners will go out to the business community to obtain information from them regarding their businesses, as well as do some fieldwork to create an inventory of the businesses and to identify existing conditions. The Task Force members suggested to also include in the business survey the number of parking spaces each business provides for their clients.

Brad also scheduled a walking tour tentatively on August 5th, at 10 am with the Task Force members and members of the Inter Agency Team, to identify locations that need improvement and to get a clearer sense of existing conditions in the area. In addition, Brad encouraged the Task Force to provide an update of the South Boston project as a whole in their organizational newsletters.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7.30pm.